



**MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF CHILDHOOD - CHILD CARE COMPLIANCE**

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION OF  
SUBSTANTIATED STATUTE OR RULE VIOLATIONS**

**DATE OF REPORT**

6/21/2021

**DVN**

001191802

**FACILITY NAME**

CHILD CARE SPECIALISTS TOO, INC.

**FACILITY ADDRESS**

614 HARDESTY

**CITY**

KANSAS CITY

**ZIP CODE**

64124

**PHONE NUMBER**

(816) 231-3404

**COUNTY**

JACKSON

**ASSIGNED SPECIALIST**

FOX, ROMENA

**RULE/STATUTE VIOLATION(S)**

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(A)

Birth Through Two (2) Years. Groups composed of mixed ages through two (2)- years shall have no less than one (1) adult to four (4) children, with no more than eight (8) children in a group.

19 CSR 30-62.112 (1)(E)

Mixed Age Groups Two Years (2) and Up. Groups composed of mixed ages of children two (2) years of age and older shall have no less than one (1) adult to ten (10) children with a maximum of four (4) two (2)-year olds. When there are more than four (4) two (2)-year olds in a mixed group, the staff/child ratio shall be no less than one (1) adult to eight (8) children.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Section for Child Care Regulation determined this allegation to be substantiated. On June 25, 2021, Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Romena Fox completed an unannounced inspection at Child Care Specialists Too, Inc. and interviewed Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto.

Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto reported that she is having a lot of trouble with staff right now . She stated that people won't come to work when they're supposed to and they won't accept work when it's offered to them. She reported that she has had two staff members call in on June 25, 2021 and that staff members are late every day.

On June 25, 2021, CCFS Romena Fox observed Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto with eighteen children , ages two years through ten years. CCFS Romena Fox observed Caregiver Raymond Recob and Caregiver Cindy Zamora with ten infants and toddlers. Four additional staff members arrived while CCFS Romena Fox was present. The infants and toddlers were split into two groups with two staff members and five children in each group. Caregiver Raymond Recob and Caregiver Cindy Zamora were with five children and Caregiver Courtney Jo and Caregiver Mariah Thomas were with five children . The preschool children then had one extra staff member. The staff members with the preschool children were Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto, Caregiver Elizabeth Palace and Caregiver Edward Mollett.

On July 9, 2021, CCFS Romena Fox observed Caregiver Carmesha Craig with four infants; Caregiver Raymond Recob and Caregiver Keairah Lott with six toddlers; Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto with eleven children , ages four through eleven years; and Caregiver Edward Mollett with eight children, ages two and three years. CCFS Romena Fox observed Caregiver Keairah Lott come out of the infant/toddler unit into the preschool room with a toddler, leaving Caregiver Raymond Recob out of ratio with five toddlers.

Based on the interview and observations, there is sufficient evidence to show that the program was out of ratio . Therefore, the allegation is substantiated.

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-62.082 (2)(B)(2)(B)(III)

If a unit for infants and toddlers is auxiliary to a facility for older children, centers initially licensed for infant/toddler care after the effective date of these rules or facilities adding new infant/toddler space, shall have play, sleeping and bathroom space in the infant and toddler unit. This space shall be separated from the space used for older children by floor-to-ceiling walls.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Section for Child Care Regulation determined this allegation to be substantiated. On June 25, 2021, Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Romena Fox completed an unannounced inspection at Child Care Specialists Too, Inc. and interviewed Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto.

Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto reported that she is having a lot of trouble with staff right now. She stated that people won't come to work when they're supposed to and they won't accept work when it's offered to them. She reported that she has had two staff members call in on June 25, 2021 and that staff members are late every day.

On July 9, 2021, CCFS Romena Fox observed Caregiver Keairah Lott come out of the infant/toddler unit into the preschool room with a toddler. Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto informed Caregiver Keairah Lott that she could not bring infants or toddlers out of the infant/toddler unit and Caregiver Keairah Lott took the toddler back into the infant/toddler unit. Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto reported that Caregiver Keairah Lott is new and they are trying to train her.

Based on the interview and observation, there is sufficient evidence to show that a child under two years old was in the preschool area. Therefore, the allegation is substantiated.

**VIOLATION(S)**

19 CSR 30-63.020 (1)

Prior to the employment or presence of a child care staff member in a family child care home, group child care home, child care center, or license-exempt facility not exempted by section 210.1080.13, RSMo, the child care provider shall request the results of a criminal background check for such child care staff member from the department.

**CONCLUSION SUMMARY**

Section for Child Care Regulation determined this allegation to be substantiated. On June 25, 2021, Child Care Facility Specialist (CCFS) Romena Fox completed an unannounced inspection at Child Care Specialists Too, Inc. and interviewed Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto.

Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto reported that she has eligibility letters for everyone. CCFS Romena Fox observed the files for all reported staff members. Caregiver Courtney Jo, Caregiver Cindy Zamora and Caregiver Carmesha Craig did not have eligibility letters. All other staff members had eligibility letters in their files. On July 9, 2021, CCFS Romena Fox received an email from Board President and Director Vonnie Occhipinto with eligibility letters for Caregiver Cindy Portillo and Caregiver Carmesha Craig attached. The email stated that Caregiver Courtney Jo resigned.

Based on the interview and observations, there is sufficient evidence to show that all staff members did not have comprehensive criminal background checks. Therefore, the allegation is substantiated.

**CORRECTIVE MEASURES**

<b>CORRECTIVE MEASURE</b>	<b>COMPLETED (Y/N)</b>	<b>COMPLETED DATE</b>
Signs shall be posted at all entrances of the rooms displaying the required staff/child ratios.	Yes	9/6/2022
The provider shall create a plan that ensures children under the age of 24 months will remain in the infant/toddler unit at all times while they are in care. The plan shall be reviewed with all staff members (paid employees and paid or unpaid volunteers) and all staff members shall sign a statement that they will adhere to the plan. A copy of the plan and the signed statements shall be provided to the Section for Child Care Regulation.	Yes	9/6/2022
All staff members (paid employees or unpaid volunteers) must review rule 19 CSR 30-62.112 and sign a statement that they have read and understand the entirety of this rule. The provider shall submit a list of staff and the signed statements to Section for Child Care Regulation.	Yes	9/6/2022
The facility shall ensure that all employees have an eligibility letter on file prior to a person's employment and/or presence within the child care facility. The facility shall submit a signed statement agreeing to ensure this requirement is followed. A copy of the signed statement shall be provided to the Section for Child Care Regulation.	Yes	9/6/2022
The provider shall submit a list of staff members and a copy of all staff members' eligibility letters.	Yes	9/6/2022

**DISPOSITION**

SUBSTANTIATED

**DISPOSITION DATE**

8/5/2021

**APPROVING SUPERVISOR**

NURNBERG, TONY A